

**\* Please note additional agenda item under Executive Session.**

**\* Please note additional agenda item, Resolution No. 08-12-31.**

**Both items added after legal ad was published in the Cranston Herald on**

**Thursday, December 11, 2008.**

## **CRANSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2008**

**WESTERN HILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**400 PHENIX AVENUE**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: 6:00 P.M.**

**PUBLIC SESSION: 7:00 P.M.**

## **MINUTES**

**The regularly monthly meeting of the Cranston School Committee was held on the evening of the above date at Western Hills Middle School in the auditorium with the following members present: Mr. Archetto, Mrs. Greifer, Ms. Iannazzi, Mr. Lombardi, Mr. Stycos, Mrs. Tocco-Greenaway, and Mr. Traficante. Also present were Mr. Scherza, Mr. Nero, Mr. Votto, Mr. Balducci, Dr. Lundsten, and Mrs. Coogan.**

**Chairman Traficante called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. It was moved by Mr. Lombardi, seconded by Ms. Iannazzi and unanimously carried that the members adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RI State Laws PL 42-46-5(a)(1) Personnel; PL 42-46-5(a)(2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation (Program Supervisors; Contract Negotiations' Update; Caruolo Action; \*UBIO Matter).**

**Chairman Traficante reconvened public session at 7:25 p.m.**

**Chairman Traficante, on behalf of the School Committee, wished everyone a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, and a happy and healthy New Year.**

**The roll was called and the Pledge of Allegiance conducted.**

#### **I. Executive Session Minutes Sealed – December 15, 2008**

**Moved by Mr. Lombardi, seconded by Ms. Iannazzi and unanimously carried that the December 15, 2008 Executive Session minutes remain confidential.**

**Mr. Traficante reported that no vote was taken in Executive Session.**

## **II. Minutes of Previous Meetings Approved – November 10, 2008; November 17, 2008; and November 24, 2008**

**Moved by Mr. Lombardi, seconded by Ms. Iannazzi and unanimously carried that the minutes of the November 10, 2008; November 17, 2008; and November 24, 2008 meetings be approved.**

## **III. Public Acknowledgements / Communications**

**There were no public acknowledgements or communications.**

## **IV. Chairperson Communications**

**Chairman Traficante indicated that three individuals would no longer be serving on the Cranston School Committee. He went on to say that someone had said many years ago that service is the dues one must pay in occupying space here on earth. These three individuals have dedicated a good deal of their adult life serving this community and other communities serving the children of this State and serving the taxpayers in this State as well in a variety of capacities.**

**Paul Archetto has been an educator for the past twenty years in the State of Rhode Island. He also served as a state representative in the City of Cranston; he served on the School Committee for four years; and he is moving on now to the Cranston City Council as a**

**representative Ward 3. The committee is looking to him to show them the money. On behalf of the committee, Mr. Traficante presented a plaque to Mr. Archetto in appreciation for his dedicated service.**

**Deborah Greifer is perhaps one of the most committed individuals that Mr. Traficante has ever met as an elected official. She has been serving PTA's, the Cranston Educational Advisory Board, and the Special Education Parent Advisory Board throughout her adult life. She will be dearly missed for that commitment and dedication. Mr. Traficante presented Mrs. Greifer with a plaque and thanked her for her dedication and service.**

**Donna Tocco-Greenaway has served as an educator at the secondary level for five years. She is also an adjunct professor at Salve Regina University for the past six years and is very much involved in the community and in PTA's at the local elementary school. She will be dearly missed as well. She is going on now for a doctorate degree, and the committee wished her well. Mr. Traficante presented Mrs. Tocco-Greenaway with a plaque and thanked her for her dedication and service.**

## **V. Superintendent Communications**

**Superintendent Scherza told the public that he hoped that they had**

an opportunity to experience, as he did, the joint project sponsored by Disney which is High School Musical. It was a top-notch performance by the students from Cranston East and Cranston West. He acknowledged and commended them for a job well done; it was outstanding.

## **VI. School Committee Member Communications**

Mr. Stycos reported that he attended a meeting with Mr. Scherza, Mr. Votto, Mayor-elect Fung, Mr. Garabedian, and the Auditor General. They were discussing the school department's financial situation. The Auditor General warned them about the pension fund that because of what has happened in the stock market and the early retirements, this is likely to hit the budget, not next year's budget but the following year's budget because of the way they figure the percentage that they send the school district to pay for the different pension funds. The Auditor General's estimate was that the amount that the school district may be paying may go up by 1/3 which for the teachers may be approximately 5% of payroll. He wanted to make everyone aware that with the economic downturn this is a little time bomb that they will be facing one year from now.

Ms. Iannazzi thanked Ms. Coutu for hosting Senator Jack Reed at the Career and Technical Center. Too often the committee doesn't thank the principals when they go above and beyond; and she certainly did today. She echoed Mr. Traficante's kind words about the departing

colleagues. She didn't know three years ago when she called Mrs. Tocco-Greenaway and asked her help with a civics class that they would become such good friends and that they would enjoy serving two years on the School Committee together; and it has been a pleasure. She went on to say that Mr. Archetto has provided a much needed comic relief, and that has been enjoyable. Mrs. Greifer certainly has been the devotion of the committee. She has served tirelessly, and she has been there when no one else could attend activities throughout the day and lending support to everything that does take place in Cranston. She thanked all of them.

Mr. Lombardi told Mr. Archetto that he learned a lot from his experience as a legislator, and the committee's loss will be the Council's gain in bringing them another good voice on the Council. He called Mrs. Greifer the hardest working School Committee person. She goes to the "opening of an envelope" on behalf of the School Committee. She is sorely going to be missed. He considered it an honor to have worked with her.

Mr. Lombardi told Mrs. Tocco-Greenaway that he includes her among his friends. She has been a very valuable voice to the School Committee, and he thanked all three for what they have done for the School Committee.

Chairman Traficante introduced newly-elected School Committee members, Stephanie Culhane and Janice Ruggieri.

**Moved by Ms. Iannazzi, seconded by Mr. Lombardi and unanimously carried to take Resolution No. 08-12-1 out of order.**

## **SPONSORED BY THE COMMITTEE**

**NO. 08-12-1 - Whereas, Catherine Moretta has been a dedicated and loyal employee of the Cranston Public Schools since October 18, 1983, and**

**Whereas, she began her career as a Central Administration Secretary and was later appointed to the position of Executive Administrative Assistant to the Cranston School Committee, and**

**Whereas, Mrs. Moretta spent countless hours serving and supporting various School Committees for eleven years, and**

**Whereas, the Cranston School Committee and the Administration want Mrs. Moretta to know how much her work ethic and loyalty are appreciated,**

**Be it RESOLVED, that the Cranston School Committee and the Administration thank and congratulate Mrs. Moretta for her many years of outstanding service to the school district and her strong and positive commitment to her profession and,**

**Be it further RESOLVED, that Mrs. Moretta receive a copy of this resolution signed by the members of the Cranston School Committee.**

**Moved by Ms. Iannazzi, seconded by Mr. Lombardi and unanimously carried that this Resolution be adopted.**

**The Resolution was read by Ms. Iannazzi and presented to Mrs. Moretta.**

**Many kind comments were made about Mrs. Moretta. On behalf of the committee Ms. Iannazzi made a gift presentation to Mrs. Moretta.**

**Mr. Lombardi left the meeting.**

## **VII. Public Hearing**

**a. Students (Agenda/Non-agenda Matters)**

**b. Members of the Public (Agenda Matters Only)**

**Rachel Vieira, 11 Apple Hill Drive – Rachel is president of the Western Hills Student Council. She was accompanied by Brianna Ruggiero and Chris Patrizio, vice president of the Student Council, James Sweeney, and Francesca Branca, treasurer of the Student Council. Rachel read the following statement: On behalf of the Western Hills Middle School Student Council, we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ms. Angela Palazini for earning National Board of Professional Teaching Standards Certification. We have so many**



great teachers here at Western Hills, and this is just another example of a teacher who has voluntarily gone above and beyond to provide the best education possible for her students. Our teachers continuously encourage us to work hard and Ms. Palazini serves as a role model to us as she has certainly exuded great effort in earning this prestigious certification. Ms. Palazini, we would like to present you with these flowers to show our appreciation for all of your hard work and dedication! We are so proud of you!!!

Doreen Archetto, 78 Sheffield Road, Cranston – She read the following statement: I am here to speak about the resolution pertaining to the layoffs due to budgetary reasons. I have been working in elementary classrooms for approximately three years for grades K through 2. Working with these children has really given me a feeling that I have helped students learn. Being with these children is a very heartwarming experience as I know that some of them need extra help in these early years of their education. I know I speak for all the teacher assistants when I say – this is a very rewarding job. Helping these children learn to read, write and do math is very important to us as teacher assistants. A lone teacher in a classroom of at least twenty-six children can't give all of them the extra time they may need. Having an aide in the classroom is a necessity with that many children. Being able to break into reading groups and math groups by levels helps the children learn within their abilities. Without an aide in these classrooms many of these children would fall between the cracks. We hope you as committee members have

truly considered how these proposed layoffs will effect the early educational development of children in grades K, 1 and 2. These layoffs DO NOT balance the present budget but they do add to the educational deficit within the City of Cranston School System.

Frank Flynn, CTA President – Mr. Flynn offered his best wishes to Mrs. Greifer, Mr. Archetto, and Mrs. Tocco-Greenaway. He thanked them for their service to the City of Cranston and in particular to Cranston Public Schools. He has said before that he and the committee may not always agree, but he appreciates the time they put in. He knows this is the most thankless job in the State of Rhode Island. He also wished Cathy Moretta congratulations. She has been wonderful to work with, and on behalf of the Cranston Teachers' Alliance, they appreciate all her efforts. He also congratulated Sheila Grace, Angela Palazini, Debourah Petteruti, and Paula Polseno for achieving National Board Certification. It is a wonderful honor and a credit to them as professionals and a credit to the Cranston Public Schools.

He also asked to speak on Resolution No. 08-12-22, the layoff of several non-certified individuals, particularly the teacher assistants. As he said in the letter sent to the committee regarding this issue, he took extreme exception and offense to the manner in which this was implemented by giving them a dictate that they had to come up with a certain amount of money in savings. The CTA has been ready and willing to sit down and negotiate with the School Committee and

**Cranston Public Schools' since last January. In November of last year, they received a letter from Mayor Trafficante discussing the beginning of negotiations with the collective bargaining groups. They responded that they would be more than willing. They met on several occasions, the last being August 24th; and they have been waiting ever since. They will have their first meeting since the last meeting tomorrow afternoon. They have been more than willing to sit down. They know that the financial situation certainly restricts some of the things they can talk about, but they should have been involved in that process. For them to be told that they had to come up with an amount of money without being subject to collective bargaining is certainly an insult to them and may in fact be an unfair labor practice.**

**Mr. Flynn went on to say that he wished to speak about the literacy aides. These are the lowest paid employees in the school district. They perform a vital service to those classes where they are assigned. They are assigned based on the need of the students for their services. It is based on test scores and class size. There use to be many more of these people, and a lot of those jobs have been eliminated. If the committee realizes it, three or four years ago they consolidated a number of elementary classes in this district. The class sizes in many of the elementary classes are higher than they have been in a long time. Those are the early childhood classes, the primary classes, those are the ones that these people work in to provide a necessary service. In cutting this for a small amount of**

savings is probably going to cost more in the long run because the children who these people service may well end up requiring special education services in the future which will cost more in the long run than they would have realized if they were left in place. Two special education teacher assistant positions are being eliminated as well. Because of the bumping process, the committee may end up displacing some teachers that are in some positions and moving other teachers who are familiar with some students in a one-on-one basis who have the consistency of working with a student for quite some time and have developed a rapport. In mid year to do that to a special needs one-on-one student is a very seriously wrong thing to do at this time. He believed that it is going to be devastating to the children who work with those para professionals whose jobs are going to be eliminated. A more senior person who through no fault of theirs is looking to maintain a job is going to be in those positions working with those students. He was sure they are going to do a wonderful job, but the students won't realize what is happening. This is going to go down as an historic day in Cranston. This is the evening that the dismantling of the Cranston Public Schools is going to begin. The politicians at City Hall don't realize it or don't care. Obviously, the new mayor doesn't seem to care because he was cited as being in an editorial over the weekend that he is on board with the new charter schools, and they are looking to eliminate the function of public schools and privatize everything. This is a very bad direction everyone is heading in. There is going to be a lot of pain, and he understood the difficult position the committee is in, but this is a very

**bad omen for the City of Cranston.**

**Margie Chapman, 124 Locust Glen Drive, Secretary at the Career and Technical Center – Ms. Chapman read the following statement: Back in November, I e-mailed every school committee member a letter asking them to please reconsider the elimination of the secretarial position at the Cranston Area Career and Technical Center given the complexities of the position. Some of my concerns in the letter were also that of a Cranston resident and taxpayer. To my dismay, I did not receive one reply or acknowledgement. Ms. Chapman added that Mrs. Tocco-Greenaway's letter kicked back, so she did not receive the e-mail. I am now handing out for the record what I submitted in November and hoping that before your final votes you take time to read again what was written. I am very disheartened by what is happening here. I hope there is no hidden agenda behind all of this because all of us do give our hearts and souls to the Cranston School System. I truly do not believe that these decisions/recommendations cannot be reversed – as it is your decision that is the final say, not the administration or the superintendent's. I hope also that you have looked down the road to see what ramifications will occur with some of the requested cuts. Quick fixes never work. Last month a very colorful young man spoke for approximately 300 middle school students. Everyone was impressed, including myself, and he won a reprieve for sports. Last month, students, parents, teachers and others spoke for the more than 600 students at the Center to save positions, and this committee appeared to listen, but all seemed lost.**

**It is very saddening when middle school sports take precedence over education, and I again hope you reconsider. This may be a last-ditch effort on my part, and I hope you will reconsider everything.**

**Michael Cornachione, 79 Lexington Avenue – He stated that he spoke last month, and now he is here again. He indicated that he is a technical assistant at the Career and Technical Center. He is Chef Steve. He wished to speak about his position and other technical assistants. They have a unique job. They work hands on, and in his program there are ninety-nine students, and twenty-eight of them are special needs. Before it was all about the numbers, and his program has the numbers. Every instructor has to have a certificate from the Rhode Island Department of Health which allows the assistants to work with ten to twelve students. He is in the kitchen with the other chef, and there are two of them with a certificate which allows them to have twenty-four students in the kitchen. If the committee eliminates his position, only twelve students can be in the kitchen at one time. He asked what they will do with the other twelve students. He doesn't know where they will go. There are life skills students who work in the kitchen two times a week during a seven-day period. It is a self-sufficient program. They do parties, and they cater. The Rhode Island Department of Education goes there, and the Superintendents throughout the state go there. He asked about items that are tabled, and Mr. Traficante explained the process to him. Mr. Cornachione explained to the committee that they are all part of Cranston High School West, but they are different and unique. They can't be**

compared to others. They are hands-on people working with knives, stoves, carpentry, nursing programs, etc. They have special licenses to go to nursing homes. Mrs. Silva in the child development center works with the nursery students. He also mentioned the twelve-month secretarial position at the Career and Technical Center and the elimination of this position. In the summer time she gets a lot of grant money and other money for the school and helps with student recruitment. If the committee eliminates the twelve-month secretarial position, they will be doing a number on their school. All the technical assistants have a unique job, and it is all about the students. First it is about the safety of the students in all of the programs. His job as a technical assistant is to work with the special needs students to make sure they are on the same level as all the regular students. He also works with the regular education students. The technical assistants and the secretary are in limbo because they don't know what is going to happen. Besides the students who keep them going every day, Ms. Coutu, the director, is the one who gives them encouragement and keeps them smiling. She deserves a lot of credit for the job she is doing.

John Carbone, 62 Pontiac Avenue – He wished to address Resolution No. 08-12-22, the layoff of custodial positions. He indicated that approximately seven years ago due to budget five custodial positions were eliminated. Two years ago another five positions were eliminated. They presently have two full-time positions at the middle school level that have not been filled and two part-time positions at

the elementary level that have not been filled. As President of the custodians' union and a resident of Cranston and working for the school department for the past twenty-three years, he is certainly aware of the financial problems. There comes a time when the committee has to consider the health, safety, and security of the students and staff. A clean environment lends itself to better learning, and with the loss of three additional positions, it will be very difficult to maintain their high standards. As a union, they have tried very hard in negotiations to meet the committee's needs, and he would like to feel that most of these have been met. It is next to impossible to meet the needs of their buildings with three less positions. He asked that the committee not act on these layoffs this evening so that they can consider his request and what the ramifications would be.

Joan Prior, 28 Tomahawk Trail, Vice President of Secretaries' Local 2044 – She asked to speak on Resolution No. 08-12-1. She congratulated Cathy Moretta for doing a wonderful job working twenty-five years for the school department. She has worked with Cathy, and we have had great times. She always had that sense of humor, and she extended it to all our secretaries throughout the buildings. She always has a smile on her face whether it is tough times or not. She always had a great sense of humor and great Irish wit. It has been a pleasure to know her. Judy Kosofsky who has worked for the school department for thirty-nine years is retiring also.

She has thirty-nine years of dedicated service to the students,



parents, and teachers of Edgewood Highland School. She has dedicated herself, and she will be truly missed. She was always a woman of style. She always looked great and always had a smile. Most of the secretaries do give it all. They stay when there are snow storms. They are there for the teachers, the parents, and especially the students. Whether they work in administration or work in elementary or in secondary, they always give it their all. On Resolution No. 08-12-22, she was sorry to hear that the school department would be losing at least five of its secretaries. With Judy Kosofsky's retirement, they will save one. There have been a number of combo positions and triple positions that have hit their bargaining unit. They have kept it going, and they try to keep it going for everyone. She was sad to say that this is happening. She asked the committee to think about it. She asked them to try to save some of their positions.

Lynn Burke, Assistant Principal, Cranston High School West, 77 Ashland Road, Scituate – She stated that former superintendent, Catherine Ciarlo, always referred to the Cranston Public Schools' high schools as having one high school with two campuses. For many reasons, that is very true. Cranston High School West is unique in that it has a career and technical center. She speaks about the career and technical center as an administrator there, as a former student there, and as a teacher there and the values the career and technical center has for its students. As the person responsible for scheduling that building of 1,691 students, it is a monumental task

when there is an additional component on the western side of the city. There are 600 plus students attending that center who have to have a unique schedule on its own in connection with the main high school schedule. That coupled with the fact that in the secretary changes, she will be losing a secretary who assists her in the summer with the master schedule. The problem is compounded with the loss of the twelve-month secretary at the career and technical center. In the past, they always had twenty days with counselors working in the summer to assist with scheduling especially with the out-of-district and out-of-town students. That was eliminated. With the loss of the twelve-month secretary in the career and technical center, the assistance she was able to provide last summer is now gone. She hopes the committee will reconsider and look at the needs of Cranston High School West. She understands the budget issues, and she understands that Cranston West will probably have to lose a secretary but asked them to look again at the reconfiguration and reconsider this so that as administrators they can accomplish their jobs and work to their full potential for the betterment of the students.

## **VIII. Consent Agenda**

**The following Resolutions appear under the Consent Agenda:**

**No.'s 08-12-5; 08-12-6 is withdrawn; 08-12-7; 08-12-8, 08-12-9, 08-12-10, and 08-12-11 are withdrawn; 08-12-12, 08-12-13 with addendum; 08-12-14; 08-12-15 with addendum; 08-12-16; 08-12-17;**

**08-12-18; 08-12-19; 08-12-20; 08-12-21; 08-12-23; 08-12-24; 08-12-25;  
08-12-26; 08-12-27; 08-12-28; 08-12-29; 08-12-30; and 08-12-31**

**NO. 08-12-5 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, said certified administrator be renewed as follows:**

**Sean Kelly  
High School Principal  
Cranston High School East  
Contract Effective: July 1, 2009  
See Attached Financial Impact Analysis**

**NO. 08-12-6 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, said certified administrator be renewed as follows:**

**David Alba  
Elementary Principal  
Glen Hills School  
Contract Effective: July 1, 2009  
See Attached Financial Impact Analysis**

**This Resolution was withdrawn.**

**NO. 08-12-7 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, said certified administrator be renewed as follows:**

**Lynda Wagner**

**Assistant Principal**

**Cranston High School East**

**Contract Effective: July 1, 2009**

**See Attached Financial Impact Analysis**

**NO. 08-12-8 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, said certified administrator be renewed as follows:**

**Pamela Thompson**

**Assistant Principal for Special and Related Services**

**Cranston High School East**

**Contract Effective: July 1, 2009**

**See Attached Financial Impact Analysis**

**NO. 08-12-9 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, said certified administrator be renewed as follows:**

**Ann Marie Zodda**

**Special Education Director**

**Special Services Center**

**Contract Effective: July 1, 2009**

**See Attached Financial Impact Analysis**

**This Resolution was withdrawn.**

**NO. 08-12-10 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, said certified administrator be renewed as follows:**

**Michele Simpson**

**Special Education Director**

**Special Services Center**

**Contract Effective: July 1, 2009**

**See Attached Financial Impact Analysis**

**This Resolution was withdrawn.**

**NO. 08-12-11 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, said certified administrator be renewed as follows:**

**Gerald Schimmel**

**Special Education Director**

**Special Services Center**

**Contract Effective: July 1, 2009**

**See Attached Financial Impact Analysis**

**This Resolution was withdrawn.**

**NO. 08-12-12 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following certified personnel be appointed as substitutes on a temporary basis as needed:**

**Richard Krajewski General Subject Matter**

**Virginia Peak Secondary English**

**Gloria Johnson Spanish / Art**

**Karen Eknaian Secondary Biology**

**Julie Teixeira Elementary**

**NO. 08-12-13 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the retirement of the following certified personnel be accepted:**

**Valerian Don Zapasnik, Teacher**

**Itinerant**

**Effective Date: December 20, 2008**

**NO. 08-12-14 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following individuals be reappointed as athletic coaches:**

**CRANSTON HIGH SCHOOL WEST**

**Meghan Reynolds Assistant Girls' Indoor Track**

## **BAIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**Nelson Rico Head Wrestling**

**NO. 08-12-15 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following individuals be appointed as athletic coaches:**

**Michael Penza, Head Wrestling, Cranston High School East**

**Step – 3**

**Class – B**

**Playing Competition – Cranston High School East / Rhode Island College**

**Experience – Cranston High School East Volunteer Coach Wrestling**

**Certification – Rhode Island Coaches' Certification; CPR/AED/First Aid Certified**

**Brandon Scotti, Assistant Wrestling, Cranston High School East**

**Step – 3**

**Class – D**

**Playing Competition – Cranston High School East**

**Experience – None**

**Certification - Rhode Island Coaches' Certification; CPR/AED/First Aid Certified**

**James Gemma, Head Boys' Basketball, Park View Middle School**

**Step – 3**

**Class – D**

**Playing Competition – High School**

**Experience – Assistant Boys' Coach, Cranston High School West**

**Certification - Rhode Island Coaches' Certification; CPR/AED/First Aid Certified**

**Christopher Muncy, Assistant Hockey, Cranston High School East**

**Step – 1**

**Class – D**

**Playing Competition – High School**

**Experience – Recreational Leagues**

**Rhode Island Coaches' Certification; CPR/AED/First Aid Certified**

**Joshua Procaccianti, Head Wrestling, Park View Middle School**

**Step – 2**

**Class – D**

**Playing Competition – High School**

**Experience – Bain Middle School, Boys' Soccer**

**Certification – Rhode Island Coaches Certification; CPR/AED/First Aid Certified**

**Peter DiLorenzo, Head Wrestling, Western Hills Middle School**

**Step – 2**

**Class – D**

**Playing Competition – High School and College**



**Experience – Club Team, Bryant University**

**Certification – Rhode Island Coaches' Certification; CPR/AED/First Aid Certified**

**NO. 08-12-16 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following individual be reappointed as a volunteer coach:**

**Matthew Brannon Cranston High School West Hockey**

**NO. 08-12-17 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following individuals be appointed as volunteer coaches:**

**Justin Zmed Cranston Girls' Hockey**

**Walter Brown Cranston High School East Girls' Basketball**

**NO. 08-12-18 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation of the following coach be accepted:**

**Victor Caldarone, Head Wrestling**

**Western Hills Middle School**

**Effective Date: November 19, 2008**

**NO. 08-12-19 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the**

**Superintendent, the following non-certified personnel be appointed as substitutes on a temporary basis as needed:**

**SECRETARY**

**Beverly Allen**

**TEACHER ASSISTANT**

**Lidia Santos**

**NO. 08-12-20 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the retirement of the following non-certified personnel be accepted:**

**Joseph Algasso, Foreman**

**Plant**

**Effective Date: December 30, 2008**

**Judith Kosofsky, Secretary**

**Edgewood Highland School**

**Effective Date: January 2, 2009**

**NO. 08-12-21 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation of the following non-certified personnel be accepted:**

**Dawn Corvese, Bus Monitor**

## **Transportation**

**Effective Date: November 7, 2008**

**NO. 08-12-23 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the termination of non-certified Employee A be accepted.**

**NO. 08-12-24 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the termination of non-certified Employee B be accepted.**

**NO. 08-12-25 – Whereas, the District currently offers the Cranston Public Schools 403(b) Retirement Plan (the “Plan”) to give its employees the opportunity to save additional funds for retirement; and**

**Whereas, the District desires to restate and amend the Plan to comply with final regulations issued with respect to Internal Revenue Code section 403(b); and**

**Whereas, there has been presented to the meeting a copy of the proposed restated and amended Plan; and**

**Whereas, the District desires to adopt a policy statement regarding the manner in which annuity contract(s) and/or custodial account(s) (referred to hereafter as “Funding Vehicles”) and/or investment**

**providers offering annuity contract(s) and/or custodial account(s) (referred to hereafter as “Vendors”) made available under the Plan will be selected and deselected; and**

**Whereas, there has been presented to the meeting a copy of the proposed Policy Regarding Funding Vehicles(s) / Vendor(s) Selection and Deselection under the Plan (the “Policy Statement”); and**

**Whereas, after full discussion, the adoption and executive of the plan and the adoption of the Policy Statement appear to be in the best interest of the District and its employees;**

**Be it RESOLVED that the Plan substantially in the form presented to the meeting be and is hereby adopted and approved by the Cranston School Committee, effective as of January 1, 2009; and**

**Be it further RESOLVED that a copy of the Plan be attached to and made a part of the minutes of this meeting as Exhibit A thereto; and**

**Be it further RESOLVED that the Policy Statement substantially in the form presented to the meeting be and is hereby adopted and approved by the Cranston School Committee, effective as of the date of this meeting as set forth above; and**

**Be it further RESOLVED that a copy of the Policy Statement be attached to and made a part of the minutes of this meeting as Exhibit**

**B thereto; and**

**Be it further RESOLVED that a “Benefits Plan Committee” (the “Committee”) is hereby established as of January 1, 2009 and will serve as named Administrator of the Plan; and**

**Be it further RESOLVED that the individuals who hold the following listed positions in the District are hereby nominated and appointed as members of the Committee: School Committee member, Superintendent or designee, Chief Operating Officer, Chief Financial Officer; and**

**Be it finally RESOLVED that the Committee (or its designee) is authorized and directed to take such actions as may be necessary or advisable in connection with the implementation of the Plan and Policy Statement including, without limitation, selecting one or more types of annuity contracts and/or custodial accounts to be offered as investment fund options under the Plan in accordance with the provisions of the Policy Statement regarding the selection and/or deselection of Funding Vehicles(s) and/or Vendor(s) under the Plan; entering into agreements with Vendor(s) to offer one or more types of annuity contracts and/or custodial accounts as investment fund options under the Plan pursuant to provisions of the Policy Statement; selecting and entering into an agreement with a third party plan administrator and/or other service provider(s) to carry out certain administrative and other duties of the Committee; preparing**

and distributing employee communications and notices; entering into agreements with Plan participants regarding participation in the Plan; following the directions of Plan participants regarding Plan participant contributions and investment elections; appointing one or more employees of the District to carry out certain administrative duties of the Committee; maintaining records of all transactions and executing and delivering the Plan substantially in the form presented to the meeting (with such changes, additions and deletions therefrom as may be deemed necessary, appropriate or advisable by the Committee; the execution thereof to be conclusive evidence of the approval by the Committee of such changes, additions and deletions), including any amendments as may from time to time be required and to make such additional amendments to the Plan or execute such further documents as may be necessary or desirable, all without the further approval of the Cranston School Committee, except as to any matter that will have a substantial and material impact on the cost of funding or administering the Plan.

**NO. 08-12-26 - RESOLVED**, that the following purchases be approved:

Physicals for Bus Drivers be awarded to ATMED for the period from 1/1/09 through 6/30/12 at a rate of \$45.00 per physical and \$10.00 for the TB test.

Number of bids issued 6

**Number of bids received 4**

**NO. 08-12-27 - RESOLVED, that the following purchases be approved:  
(Fund 3)**

**Cafeteria Food and Supplies for the Cranston School Lunch Program  
for the**

**Period of January 1, 2009 to June 30, 2009 be purchased in the  
estimated amount of \$376,447.29.**

**Number of bids issued 8**

**Number of bids received 2**

**NO. 08-12-28 - RESOLVED, that the following purchases be approved:  
(Perkins)**

**Southbend Broiler and Range in the amount of \$7,500 for the  
Cranston Area**

**Career & Technical Center Culinary Arts Program.**

**Number of bids issued 11**

**Number of bids received 5**

**NO. 08-12-29 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the  
Superintendent, the following Conferences/Trips of Long Duration be**

**authorized:**

**Barbara Ferraro, school psychologist, to travel to Boston, Massachusetts, to attend the National Association of School Psychologists conference from February 24, 2009 to February 26, 2009. (Funding: No cost to the school department; being paid for by Barbara Ferraro.)**

**Deborah Mellion, Director of Literacy, to travel to San Antonio, Texas, to attend the Mission Possible National Title 1 Conference from February 18, 2009 to February 22, 2009. (Funding: Title 1)**

**Mark Garceau, Principal of Gladstone School, and Marie C. Palazzo, Susan Sullivan, and Roxanne Murphy, all teachers at Gladstone School, to travel to San Antonio, Texas, to attend the Mission Possible National Title I Annual Conference from February 18, 2009 to February 22, 2009. (Funding: Title 1)**

**Karen Verrengia, Energy Manager for Cranston Public Schools, to travel to Fort Worth, Texas, from February 16, 2009 to February 18, 2009 to attend the Energy Education, Inc. Winter Seminar. (Funding: General Fund per contract.)**

**NO. 08-12-30 – RESOLVED, that regulations for Policy No. 5147, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, be amended for second and final reading.**



**\* NO. 08-12-31 – RESOLVED, that the stipulated order in the UBIO, Inc. versus City of Cranston and Cranston School Committee, Rhode Island Supreme Court Case**

**No. 03-4858, as recommended by the Superintendent, be approved.**

**Moved by Ms. Iannazzi, seconded by Mrs. Tocco-Greenaway, and unanimously carried that these Resolutions be adopted.**

**Superintendent Scherza stated that the administration and the committee like to recognize those individuals who have made significant contributions to the Cranston Public Schools and all the constituencies it serves. Tonight there are three people who will be leaving the ranks who will really leave this place a little poorer because of their absence. First, Mr. Joseph Algasso is a long-time member of the maintenance crew. Joe has been working here since 1974 and has worked for thirty-four years. He feels it is time to move on, and Joe is someone everyone looks up to. Judy Kosofsky has worked at Edgewood Highland School for thirty-nine years. This is where she started and this is where she will end her career. Mr. Don Zapasnik has spent twenty-eight years teaching the students in the area of music. They have all given a substantial piece, and everyone is grateful for their contributions.**

**Ms. Iannazzi indicated that she had Mr. Zapasnik as a teacher, and he taught her how to play the clarinet and the soprano saxophone. She**

and Mr. Zapasnik have been exchanging e-mails, and he couldn't come to the meeting this evening. His loss will be a loss for the entire district, and she is worried that because he is leaving, the district may lose the entire instrumental program in the elementary schools next year. He is the glue that holds that program together so his loss will be felt.

## **IX. Action Agenda**

### **SPONSORED BY THE COMMITTEE**

**NO. 08-12-2 – Whereas, Sheila Grace, a teacher at Cranston High School East; Angela Palazini, a teacher at Western Hills Middle School; Debourah Petteruti, a teacher at Edgewood Highland School; and Paula Polseno, a teacher at Glen Hills School, have earned the prestigious National Board of Professional Teaching Standards Certification, and**

**Whereas, these teachers have demonstrated by earning National Board certification that they have met the high and rigorous standards for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do. NBPTS certification is a national voluntary system certifying teachers who meet these rigorous standards through intensive study, expert evaluation, self assessment and peer review, and**

**Whereas, as part of the process, these teachers built a portfolio that included student work samples, assignments, videotapes and a**

**thorough analysis of their classroom teaching. Additionally, these teachers were assessed on their knowledge of the subjects they teach, and**

**Whereas, these teachers are committed to the five core propositions of National Board certification in their commitment to students and learning, knowing the subjects they teach and how to teach them; are responsible for managing and monitoring student learning, think systematically about their practice and learn from experience; and are members of a learning community, and**

**Whereas, these teachers are among the thirty-seven teachers who earned certification in Rhode Island during the 2007-2008 school year,**

**Be it RESOLVED that these four teachers be recognized by the Cranston School Committee for their outstanding accomplishments in earning certification from the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards, and**

**Be it further RESOLVED that each of these teachers be presented with a copy of this Resolution signed by the members of the Cranston School Committee. Moved by Ms. Iannazzi and seconded by Mrs. Tocco-Greenaway that this Resolution be adopted.**

**Moved by Mrs. Greifer, seconded by Mr. Archetto and unanimously carried that this Resolution be adopted.**

**Mrs. Greifer read the Resolution and presented it to the teachers.**

**SPONSORED BY MS. IANNAZZI AND MR. STYCOS**

**NO. 08-12-3 - Whereas, Cranston City Council members and members of the public have repeatedly complained that the Cranston Public Schools' budget is difficult to understand, and**

**Whereas, the Mayor and Cranston City Council have granted the Cranston Public Schools budget increases of less than one percent during the last two years, and**

**Whereas, the Cranston School Committee wants the public to know as much as possible about its finances,**

**Be it RESOLVED, that the Cranston School Committee directs the Superintendent to prepare the 2009-2010 school budget in a form that mirrors the City's budget form and adheres to the best practice recommendations of the Government Finance Officers'**

**Association. The School Committee also suggests that the administration may wish to**

**meet with the City's Director of Finance, the City Council Internal Auditor, and others to complete this project, and**

**Be it further RESOLVED, that the Superintendent shall complete the portion of the budget that provides seven years of historical data by**

**January 15, 2009.**

**Moved by Mr. Stycos and seconded by Ms. Iannazzi that this Resolution be adopted.**

**Ms. Iannazzi commented that this Resolution was discussed in the School Committee work session last week, and she volunteered to go back to Mayor-elect Fung and Council President-elect Lanni and ask what information they were both looking for in the committee's budget. They both reported back that they were looking specifically for the school budget to mirror the city budget. They don't need that information by January 15, 2009, and they could use that information by the time the committee presents its budget to them.**

**Ms. Iannazzi offered a friendly amendment to change the reporting date to March 1, 2009.**

**Mr. Stycos accepted the friendly amendment.**

**Mr. Stycos stated that in light of the situation the school district is in the committee needs to do things differently. One of the definitions of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result. That is why he feels the committee has to do some things differently with the City Council and the Mayor this next time around with the budget, or they will be back here talking about more layoffs. He urged his colleagues to adopt this Resolution. He feels it**

**is the first step, but not the only solution.**

**This Resolution with a friendly amendment was adopted unanimously.**

**This Resolution now reads:**

**SPONSORED BY MS. IANNAZZI AND MR. STYCOS**

**NO. 08-12-3 - Whereas, Cranston City Council members and members of the public have repeatedly complained that the Cranston Public Schools' budget is difficult to understand, and**

**Whereas, the Mayor and Cranston City Council have granted the Cranston Public Schools budget increases of less than one percent during the last two years, and**

**Whereas, the Cranston School Committee wants the public to know as much as possible about its finances,**

**Be it RESOLVED, that the Cranston School Committee directs the Superintendent to prepare the 2009-2010 school budget in a form that mirrors the City's budget form and adheres to the best practice recommendations of the Government Finance Officers'**

**Association. The School Committee also suggests that the administration may wish to**

**meet with the City's Director of Finance, the City Council Internal**

**Auditor, and others to complete this project, and**

**Be it further RESOLVED, that the Superintendent shall complete the portion of the budget that provides seven years of historical data by March 1, 2009.**

**Mr. Traficante turned the Chair over to Ms. Iannazzi.**

**SPONSORED BY MR. TRAFICANTE, MS. IANNAZZI, AND MR. LOMBARDI**

**NO. 08-12-4 - Whereas, on March 26, 2007, Cranston's Mayor and the Cranston City Council President joined together by resolution to implement Project Redirect, and**

**Whereas, Project Redirect called for the development of several sub-committees consisting of school and municipal officials, and**

**Whereas, the sub-committees would study and make recommendations for potential legislative action by the City Administration, City Council, and School Committee for the purpose to incorporate and implement changes in the organizational structure of city government and school department, and**

**Whereas, these organizational changes would benefit the City's taxpayers through departmental consolidation and the elimination of**

**service duplications of effort,**

**Now, therefore, be it RESOLVED that a committee be formed to continue the work started under Project Redirect, and**

**Be it further RESOLVED that the committee consist of the following personnel:**

- Mayor-elect or his representative**
- City Council President-elect**
- School Committee Chairperson-elect**
- Two members of the Cranston City Council-elect selected by the Council President-elect**
- Two members of the School Committee-elect selected by the Chairperson-elect**
- The Superintendent of Cranston Public Schools or his representative**
- And, city and school department directors, as required by the committee, to include but not limited to:**

**Personnel**

**Purchasing**

**MIS**

**Transportation**

**Vehicle Maintenance**

**Property Maintenance**

**Building Maintenance**



## **Recreation**

### **Athletics**

**Be it further RESOLVED that the committee commence its study as soon as practicable and shall expeditiously implement those recommendations that benefit Cranston taxpayers with the approval of all parties concerned.**

**Moved by Mr. Archetto and seconded by Mrs. Greifer that this Resolution be adopted.**

**Mr. Traficante stated that several months ago Project Redirect was started. It is several study committees to look at the potential of consolidation of effort, and the elimination of duplication of services. All this resolution does is continue that work with the Mayor-elect and new Council-elect and new School Committee members-elect. He consulted with Mayor-elect Fung regarding the Resolution. He had an opportunity to read it over and to make his own amendments to it. They both collaborated and both agreed that the Resolution should go forward.**

**Mr. Stycos asked how members of the public or other elected officials would be able to offer their suggestions. In response, Mr. Traficante explained that there are several representatives on this committee, and hopefully anyone from the general public or anyone in an elected capacity can consult with the members of this committee. There will**

be a number of sub-committees as well. It is not limited to those departments that are listed in the Resolution. There will be several sub-committees studying each and every one of these possibilities of consolidation of effort. More than likely, each member of the School Committee will serve on a sub-committee studying a particular element as well as the City Council. Unfortunately, a great deal of people did a lot of work. Many reported back to administration. Ms. Iannazzi served with Mr. Balducci on a sub-committee dealing with purchasing and personnel, and MIS. He was on a sub-committee dealing with transportation, public works, highway, athletics, and recreation. Mr. Scherza dealt with another area. Reports are in the works, but they need further refinement and further study.

Mr. Stycos remarked that he was appointed to the Revenue Sub-committee which never met. He suggested adding revenue, and Mr. Traficante noted that it is not limited to any department. Mr. Stycos added that the problem is so big that it cannot be solved just by consolidation. Mr. Traficante commented that he would accept it as a friendly amendment.

Mr. Stycos offered as a friendly amendment to add "Revenue".

Mrs. Greifer asked Mr. Traficante if any contact had been made with the new leadership of the City Council to indicate that they are willing to go forward with this effort. Mr. Traficante responded that he and Council President-elect Lanni have had discussions, and he is very

**much in favor of the study as well. He spoke with Councilwoman Paula McFarland who is very much ready to serve on the committee as well as she did a number of studies in her area of health care.**

**This Resolution with a friendly amendment was adopted unanimously.**

**This Resolution now reads:**

**SPONSORED BY MR. TRAFICANTE, MS. IANNAZZI, AND MR. LOMBARDI**

**NO. 08-12-4 - Whereas, on March 26, 2007, Cranston's Mayor and the Cranston City Council President joined together by resolution to implement Project Redirect, and**

**Whereas, Project Redirect called for the development of several sub-committees consisting of school and municipal officials, and**

**Whereas, the sub-committees would study and make recommendations for potential legislative action by the City Administration, City Council, and School Committee for the purpose to incorporate and implement changes in the organizational structure of city government and school department, and**

**Whereas, these organizational changes would benefit the City's taxpayers through departmental consolidation and the elimination of**

**service duplications of effort,**

**Now, therefore, be it RESOLVED that a committee be formed to continue the work started under Project Redirect, and**

**Be it further RESOLVED that the committee consist of the following personnel:**

- Mayor-elect or his representative**
- City Council President-elect**
- School Committee Chairperson-elect**
- Two members of the Cranston City Council-elect selected by the Council President-elect**
- Two members of the School Committee-elect selected by the Chairperson-elect**
- The Superintendent of Cranston Public Schools or his representative**
- And, city and school department directors, as required by the committee, to include but not limited to:**

**Personnel**

**Purchasing**

**MIS**

**Transportation**

**Vehicle Maintenance**

**Property Maintenance**

**Building Maintenance**

**Recreation**

**Athletics**

**Revenue**

**Be it further RESOLVED that the committee commence its study as soon as practicable and shall expeditiously implement those recommendations that benefit Cranston taxpayers with the approval of all parties concerned.**

**Ms. Iannazzi returned the Chair to Mr. Traficante.**

**NO. 08-12-22 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, named non-certified staff members be laid off from their respective positions due to budgetary reasons.**

**Moved by Mr. Stycos and seconded by Mrs. Greifer that this Resolution be adopted.**

**Mr. Stycos referred to some of the comments made during the public speaking portion of the meeting. He hoped that the same people who spoke also express their anger at these layoffs to the members of the City Council and the Mayor. He asked those unions who chose to endorse some of the people who have given us horrible budgets, particularly Mayor Napolitano who proposed no money in his first budget and \$1 million in the second budget that they will be looking to him and the political endorsement process. Those budgets have**

been a disaster for the School Committee, and there is a direct link between the amount of money they have and the number of layoffs they are going to have. While it is perfectly fine to speak at meetings and criticize the School Committee, people ought to be looking at the people in City Hall who ran on platforms on not raising taxes, and the result of that is layoffs. There have been layoffs already, and he suspected there would be more layoffs. Secondly, the people need to realize that based on the meeting he attended today is that the raises in the costs of health insurance and pensions are just killing the district. It is not wages as much as it is the pension and health insurance. People need to know that. He can speak for himself, but most people would agree nobody likes to lay people off. They don't want the buildings to be dirtier; they don't want the students to have difficulty reading; or they don't want the administrative workings of the system to break down because they have laid off secretaries or administrators. But, with health insurance going up at 10% per year, and when he started on the School Committee for the custodians, secretaries, the non-certified people, the school department was not contributing toward the non-certified pension. Those people were contributing out of their pay, but the school district was not contributing. Now it is up to 6%, and for the teachers it is 14%. The Auditor General told them today that two years down the road they are looking at a bump in the pension contributions of 1/3 of what they are paying now. That is an additional 2% for the non-certified and an additional 5% for the teachers. This can't go on, and everyone knows what the economy is. The state has cut off the funding as well. He

and others are trying to come up with the most sensible way to reduce this budget. People may disagree with them on what they are doing, but they are trying very hard. What doesn't happen at these meetings is no one stands up and says that instead of cutting three secretaries they would suggest that the following be done. He added that he would love to hear those suggestions and others would as well; and the committee could then examine them. The committee doesn't get that from the public so they have to go with the best that they can with the money they have available. They have a huge budget deficit, and all that is going to do is snow ball and get worse. A cut made today is better than a cut made in July because otherwise they will have to balance the budget and pay for the old debts.

Mr. Archetto stated that he would be recusing himself on this matter.

Mr. Traficante referenced Mr. Stycos's comments and added that he knows there is a new Mayor-elect coming in, and people are optimistic that there will be some changes. He asked everyone to keep in mind that there aren't too many changes on the City Council; there are basically the same faces there with the exception of a few people. If the committee hasn't convinced them in the past two years, it is going to be even more difficult to convince them in the third and fourth year. It is going to be a battle, and unless the public is there and heard supporting the administration and the School Committee during the budgetary process, the committee will be back in the same place next year with the same problems. The School Committee

approved a resolution tonight to make the budget more user friendly, but the committee has made presentations to the City Council and outlined in detail what it costs the district for unfunded mandates and what it costs for pensions. Just those two items alone, pension is almost \$2 million, and unfunded mandates is \$2.6 million. That was \$4.6 million just for those two items. As Mr. Stycos indicated, the school district received \$0. They gave us \$9000,000, but the State took away \$1.1 million, so basically it was a wash. They received absolutely nothing during the first year. In the second year, they gave the district \$1 million. They also gave the school district \$1 million from the sale of the police station that is still sitting there collecting dust. In essence, the district is back to 0 again. Please understand that this is not an easy process. If the public has better suggestions, he asked them to come forth, and the committee will listen as long as they are viable and possible. Ms. Iannazzi added that the City Council has not been sympathetic, but there are a lot of principals in the audience; and they can do their part. She has walked her councilwoman around her schools. She now understands what the schools are facing. She asked all of them to take a moment and send a quick e-mail to their council members, the members who represent their schools, and invite them in to show them what the schools are doing with fewer and fewer resources.

This Resolution was adopted with Mr. Archetto recusing.

**TABLED RESOLUTION**



**NO. 08-9-4 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 2008-2009 school budget be amended.**

**Moved by Ms. Iannazzi, seconded by Mrs. Tocco-Greenaway and unanimously carried that this Resolution be removed from the table.**

**Moved by Ms. Iannazzi and seconded by Mrs. Greifer that Budget Revision I be adopted.**

**Mr. Balducci explained that the committee had before them tonight an alignment of the 2008-2009 budget; namely, the alignment of the salary accounts to take care of all of the projected cuts made at the beginning of this fiscal year, in particular the 6th grade re-alignment and the jamboree of teachers moving from one position to another. It also recognizes the savings in teacher retirements. It is important that this document be approved this evening because this year is used as the base year to compare the current year to the subsequent year for budget building purposes. It is necessary to exclude comparison from one year to the next. In approving this document, it will take care of it.**

**Mr. Stycos asked if this reflects any surprises or things that the committee didn't anticipate. He asked if there were any non-clerical issues being dealt with in this budget revision. Mr. Balducci realigned the annual order by moving supply dollars from holding**

accounts to the actual accounts where they are expended. That was a 0 wash. The school based Article 18 is a wash; it is moving to where the principals want to spend the money. With regard to the salary accounts, it was a pleasant surprise. When administration was crafting this year's budget, they made some assumptions, approximately \$1 million savings in teacher retirements and approximately \$1.2 in the reconfiguration of the 6th grade, and there was some administrative savings by eliminating some positions, and they met that and then some. He had \$100,000 left over. As seen at previous meetings, they have achieved some turnover allowance by not filling some positions and waiting to fill some positions. That is what the \$100,000 represents. They are meeting all the goals.

**Budget Revision 1 was adopted unanimously.**

Mr. Stycos noted that at the January meeting he will be offering a resolution charging for the school breakfast program as a budgetary measure. He asked if the administration would have any additional proposals as measures to come forward. He also asked if the budget should be tabled in the event the administration had things coming forward. In response, Mr. Scherza said that administration is still examining, and they will be speaking with the consultants from the city and the schools side. He has requested other things that they might suggest. He has talked to other fellow superintendents to see what they have done. There are a few other communities in similar situations to Cranston. He is hoping to be able to give the committee

**something more significant.**

**Moved by Mr. Stycos, seconded by Ms. Iannazzi and unanimously carried that the budget be tabled.**

#### **XIV. New Business**

**There was no new business.**

#### **XV. Public Hearing on Non-Agenda Items**

**There were no speakers who wished to speak on non-agenda items.**

#### **XVI. Announcement of Future Meetings**

**The School Committee will meet in the Cranston High School East library media center at 5:00 p.m. on January 5, 2009.**

#### **XVII. Adjournment**

**Moved by Ms. Iannazzi, seconded by Mrs. Tocco-Greenaway and unanimously carried that the meeting be adjourned.**

**There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was  
adjourned at  
8:35 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Andrea M. Iannazzi  
Clerk**

**5147 (a)**

**CRANSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973**

**NOTICE OF PARENTAL AND STUDENT RIGHTS**

**The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, commonly referred to as Section 504,  
is a nondiscrimination statute enacted by the United States Congress.**

**The purpose of the Act is to prohibit discrimination and to assure that students with disabilities have educational opportunities and benefits equal to those provided to students without disabilities. Specifically, Section 504 provides that: No qualified disabled person shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity which receives or benefits from Federal financial assistance.**

**An eligible student under Section 504 is a student who:**

- has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities**
- has a record of such an impairment, or**
- is regarded as having such an impairment.**

**Major life activities include functions such as:**

- caring for one's self - performing manual tasks**
- walking - hearing**
- breathing - seeing**
- working - speaking**
- learning**

**When a condition does not substantially limit a major life activity, the individual does not qualify for services under Section 504 and/or the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).**

**Both you and the Cranston Public Schools share in the education of your child. If your child has or is suspected of having a disability under Section 504 you should be aware that you have the right to:**

- 1. Have your child take part in, and receive benefits from public education programs without discrimination because of his/her disability;**
- 2. Receive notice with respect to the identification, evaluation and placement of your child;**
- 3. Have your child receive a free appropriate public education. This includes the right to be educated with non-disabled students to the maximum extent appropriate;**
- 4. Have the school district make reasonable accommodations to allow your child an equal opportunity to participate in school related and extra-curricular activities;**
- 5. Have your child educated in facilities and receive services comparable to those provided to students without disabilities;**
- 6. Have evaluation, education, and placement decisions made based on a variety of information sources and by a group of people, including persons knowledgeable about your child and the placement/service options;**

- 7. Have your child receive special education and related services if he/she is found to be eligible under the individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act;**
- 8. Have transportation provided to and from a district made alternative placement setting at no greater cost to you than would be incurred if the student were placed in a program operated by the district;**
- 9. Examine all relevant records relating to decisions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, educational program and placement;**
- 10. Obtain copies of educational record at a reasonable cost unless the fee would effectively deny you access to the records;**
- 11. A response from the Cranston Public Schools to reasonable requests for explanations and interpretations of your child's records;**
- 12. Request amendment of your child's educational records if there is reasonable cause to believe that they are inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the privacy rights of your child;**
- 13. Request mediation and grievance procedure related to decisions or actions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, educational program or placement;**

**The person in the Cranston Public Schools who is responsible for assuring that the district complies with Section 504 is:**

**Section 504 Coordinator**

**Telephone Number (401) 270-8137**

**(401) 270-8642 (FAX)**

**(401) 270-8115 (TDD)**

**Address Cranston Public Schools  
845 Park Avenue  
Cranston, Rhode Island 02910**

**14. Initiate a due process hearing by an impartial hearing officer on any matter relating to the proposal or refusal of the Cranston Public Schools to initiate or change the identification, evaluation or placement of the child if you are unable to resolve the issue at the school system level;**

**Parents may forward a request for a hearing in writing to the Rhode Island Department of Education. The person who is responsible for assuring compliance with due process procedures under Section 504 is:**

**Commissioner of Education  
Telephone Number (401) 222-4600  
(401) 222-6178 (FAX)  
(800) 745-5555 (TTY)  
Rhode Island Department of Education  
Shepard Building  
255 Westminster Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400  
5147 (c)**

**Additional information may be obtained regarding your rights under**



**Section 504 by contacting:**

**U. S. Department of Education**

**Office of Civil Rights**

**Eastern Division**

**Telephone Number (617) 223-9662 (TTY/TTD) (617) 223-9695**

**Address Office for Civil Rights, Boston Office**

**U. S. Department of Education**

**J. W. McCormack Post Office & Courthouse**

**Room 701**

**Boston, MA 002109-4557**

**Regulations Adopted: May 21, 2001 CRANSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Resolution No.: 01-5-36 Cranston, Rhode Island**

**Regulations Amended:12/15/08**

**Resolution No.: 08-12-30**

**Administrator's Compensation Schedule**

**Fiscal Year 2009-2010**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>ANN</b>	<b>SALARY</b>
<b>HEALTH</b>	<b>DENTAL</b>	<b>LIFE</b>	<b>PENSION</b>	<b>DISABILITY</b>
<b>SURV</b>	<b>BEN</b>	<b>OASDI</b>	<b>MEDICARE</b>	<b>TOTAL Fringe Sal &amp; Fringe</b>

<b>Sean Kelly</b>	<b>Principal East</b>	<b>105,798.00</b>	<b>0 0 65</b>	<b>17,605 254 96 1534</b>
<b>19,553.77</b>	<b>125,351.77</b>			

<b>Lynda Wagner</b>	<b>Asst Principal East</b>	<b>92,876.00</b>	<b>0 999 65</b>	<b>15,455</b>
<b>223 96 1347</b>	<b>18,184.17</b>	<b>111,060.17</b>		

<b>Pamela Thompson</b>	<b>Asst Principal SE East</b>	<b>88,409.00</b>	<b>16185 999 65</b>	
<b>14,711 212 96 1282</b>	<b>33,550.37</b>	<b>121,959.37</b>		

AnnMarie Zodda SE Administrator Horton	95,600.00	16185	999	65	
	15,908	229	96	1386	130,468.48
Michele Simpson SE Administrator ECC	96,407.00	16185	999	65	
	16,042	231	96	1398	131,423.40
Gerald Schimmel SE Administrator Horton	96,407.00	16185	999	65	
	16,042	231	96	1398	131,423.40
David Alba Principal Glen Hills	92,497.00	6318	293	65	15,392
	222	96	1341		116,223.70
					23,726.70
					176,189.60
					751,686.60

## **Administrator's Compensation Schedule**

**Fiscal Year 2010-2011**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>ANN</b>	<b>SALARY</b>
	<b>HEALTH</b>	<b>DENTAL</b>	<b>LIFE</b>	<b>PENSION</b>
	<b>BEN</b>	<b>OASDI</b>	<b>MEDICARE</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
			<b>Fringe</b>	<b>Sal &amp; Fringe</b>

Sean Kelly Principal East	105,798.00	0	0	65	19,710	254	96	1534
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21,659      127,457

Lynda Wagner Asst Principal East      92,876.00   6590 1069 65   17,303  
223 96   1347      26,692      119,568

48,352      247,026